

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-30 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 15 are independent.

Amendments have been made to claim 1-30. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicant thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Applicant notes that the priority document should have been forwarded by the International Bureau.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 4, 2005, and for providing Applicant with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the drawings are accepted.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claims 1-30 to place them in better form and to remove reference numerals.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully

submits that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 1-15 are allowed, and that claims 1-14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. Claims 1-14 have been amended as set forth above in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph. Accordingly, all of claims 1-30 pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

Cited References

Since the references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

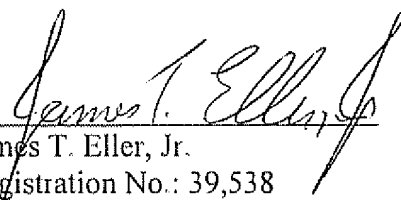
Application No. 10/523,635
Amendment dated February 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 13, 2006

Docket No. : 2723-0139PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
James T. Eller, Jr.
Registration No.: 39,538

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant